McCune

Satire Essay Assignment

The Most Important Invention

For this writing assignment, you are going to create a satirical essay in which you choose a silly invention and make the argument that it is the most important invention ever. Your essay will include an engaging introduction, five reasons why this invention is so important, and a conclusion. Here are the specific requirements:

* 1 ½ to 2 pages
* An introduction that hooks your reader
* Five specific reasons why your invention is so “important”
* A conclusion that emphasizes your point
* Satiric language similar to the ones we have studied in this class

This is a satire! That means that you can be funny, sarcastic, ironic, and definitely not serious. That being said, I still expect that you adhere to standard grammar and spelling conventions and that you keep yourself in check by employing school-appropriate language.

You will also read your writing out loud to the class during finals week as part of your final grade!

**Due Dates:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Element** | **Date** |
| Exploration of topics | Monday, December 2 |
| Essay drafting | Tuesday, December 3; Thursday December 4; Friday, December 6 |
| Peer Revisions and Workshop | Monday, December 9 |
| Essay Polishing and Presentation Practice | Friday, December 13; Tuesday, December 17 |
| Final draft and presentation to class due | Wednesday, December 18; Friday, December 20 |

Rubric:

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| **Element** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Introduction | * Humorous and engaging * Clearly defines the most important invention | * Clearly defines the most important invention | * Somewhat confusingly defines the most important invention | * Does not define the most important invention |
| Reasons | * Includes five reasons that are thoroughly developed and support the overall claim | * Includes five reasons that are well-developed and support the overall claim | * Includes five reasons but development is lacking | * Includes fewer than five reasons OR it is unclear how these reasons connect to the overall argument |
| Conclusion | * Reinforces why this is the most important invention in an amusing and engaging way | * Reinforces why this is the most important invention | * Somewhat reinforces why this is the most important invention | * Does not reinforce why this is the most important invention |
| Satire | * Makes use of copious elements of satire, including but not limited to sarcasm, irony, pun, understatement, exaggeration, parody, etc. | * Makes use of several elements of satire, including but not limited to sarcasm, irony, pun, understatement, exaggeration, parody, etc. | * Makes use of elements of satire, but those attempts are not always successful or appropriate | * Does not make use of elements of satire, or satire is deemed completely inappropriate for school |
| Grammar and Conventions | * Little to no errors | * Few errors that do not impede readability | * Several errors that sometimes hinder readability | * Copious errors that make the readability impossible |
| Presentation | * Student is dressed formally * Student delivers an engaging, high energy presentation * Student makes eye contact with everyone in the room * Rehearsal is evident | * Student is dressed formally * Student delivers a confident presentation * Student makes eye contact with most people in the room * Rehearsal is evident | * Student is dressed casually * Student delivers a flat presentation * Student makes eye contact with some people in the room * More rehearsal is needed | * Student is dressed formally * Student delivers an unintelligible presentation * Student makes no eye contact * More rehearsal is needed |